

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 07027.0001-00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:)
David R. FRIED)
Original Patent No.: 6,035,286) Group Art Unit: 2764
Original Patent Issue Date: March 7, 2000) Examiner: Y. Retta
For: COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM AND)
METHOD FOR CREATING A BUYBACK)
STOCK INVESTMENT REPORT)

REISSUE PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION FOR REISSUE OF: Utility Patent Design Patent

1. Fee Transmittal Form
2. Specification and Claims (amended, if appropriate)
3. Drawing(s) (proposed amendments, if appropriate)
4. Reissue Oath/Declaration (original copy)
(37 C.F.R. § 1.175)
5. Original U.S. Patent
 Offer to Surrender Original Patent (37 C.F.R. § 1.178)

 or

 Ribboned Original Patent

 Affidavit/Declaration of Loss

6. Original U.S. Patent currently assigned?

Yes No

(If Yes, check applicable box(es))

Written Consent of all Assignees

37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney

7. Foreign Priority Claim (35 U.S.C. 119)

8. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO 1449

Copies of IDS Citations

9. English Translation of Reissue Oath/Declaration

10. Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application, status still proper and desired

11. Preliminary Amendment

12. Also enclosed is: _____

If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: Walter J. Sutcliffe Reg. No. 24,914
for Jeffrey A. Berkowitz
Reg. No. 36,743

Dated: July 6, 2000

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REISSUE APPLICATION FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Claims as Filed - Part 1							
Claims in Patent	For	Number Filed In Reissue Application	(3) Number Extra	Small Entity		Other Than a Small Entity	
				Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
(A) Total Claims (37 CFR 1.16(j))	(B) 20	0 =	x\$ ____ =			x\$ ____ =	0
(C) Independent Claims (37 CFR 1.16(i))	(D) 03	* =	x\$ ____ =			x\$ ____ =	0
Basic Fee (37 CFR 1.16(h))				\$690		OR	\$690
Total Filing Fee				\$ ____			\$690
Claims as Amended - Part 2							
(1) Claims Remaining After Amendment		(2) Highest Number Previously Paid For	(3) Extra Claims Present	Small Entity		Other Than a Small Entity	
				Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Total Claims (37 CFR 1.16(j))	50	MINUS	20	30 =	x\$ ____ =	or	x\$18 ____ = \$540
Independent Claims (37 CFR 1.16(i))	06	MINUS	03	03 =	x\$ ____ =		x\$78 ____ = \$234

Total Additional Fee	\$	OR	\$1,464
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- * If the entry in (D) is less than the entry in (C), write "0" in column 3.
- ** If the "Highest Number of Total Claims Previously Paid For" is less than 20, write :20" in this space.
- *** After any cancellation of claims.
- **** If "A" is greater than 20, use (B-A); if "A" is 20 or less, use (B-20).
- ***** "Highest Number of Independent Claims Previously Paid For" or Number of Independent Claims in Patent (C).

If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 06-0916

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In re Reissue of)
U.S. Patent No. 6,035,286)
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Inventor: David R. FRIED)
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Serial No. 09/030,854) Group Art Unit: 2764
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Filed: February 26, 1998) Examiner: Y. Retta
)
For: A COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM AND)
METHOD FOR CREATING A BUYBACK)
STOCK INVESTMENT REPORT)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

OFFER TO SURRENDER

The undersigned Applicant of the accompanying application for the reissue of the above-referenced letters patent granted to him and on whose behalf and with whose assent the accompanying reissue application is made, hereby offers to surrender said letters patent.



David R. Fried
Applicant

Date: 6/26/2000

Attorney Docket No.: 07027.0001-00

UNITED STATES REISSUE PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CREATING A BUYBACK STOCK
INVESTMENT REPORT

BY

DAVID R. FRIED

1

COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR CREATING A BUYBACK STOCK
INVESTMENT REPORT

BACKGROUND

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1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates generally to the field of investment portfolio management. More particularly, the present invention relates to a computerized method and system for creating a stock investment report based on a buyback investment strategy.

2. Description of Related Art

Investment in accordance with the stock buyback theory is based on the premise that a company's management is in the best position to determine when the company stock is over or under valued. Further, it has been postulated that companies announcing a stock buyback tend to outperform the overall market. For example, in the article entitled "Market Underreaction to Open Market Share Repurchases," by D. Eikenberry and J. Lakonishok, *Journ. of Finance* (1994), the authors demonstrate that companies announcing stock buybacks outperformed the market by a margin of up to 9% in the four years after the initial repurchase announcement. The study did not follow the companies, however, to determine their performance for any action, (i.e., actual repurchase to decrease the percentage of outstanding shares) after the announcements were made. Conversely, in "The New Issues Puzzle," by J. Ritter and T. Loughran, *Journ. of Finance* (1996), the authors demonstrated that companies issuing shares, whether through an initial public offering (IPO) or secondary offering, underperformed the market by 7% annually during a five year period after the stock's issuance. These studies demonstrate a company's ability to buy low and sell high in terms of their own stock. Currently, there is conflicting literature, however, as to whether companies actually repurchasing their stock outperform others in the market.

To develop successful investment strategies, financial advisers currently rely on a myriad of theories and factors in an attempt to find the best investment vehicles for their clients. These theories are often based on age-old economic trends or newly developed calculations and stock screening techniques. One such recognized value factor for predicting or analyzing company performance is the price/sales ratio. The price/sales ratio is the relationship of a company's stock price to its annual sales (or revenues) per share. In the book, *What Works on Wall Street*, by J. P. O'Shanannasey (1996), the author showed that the 50 stocks with the lowest price/sales ratio out performed the market by an average of 4.27 percentage points from Dec. 31, 1952 to Dec. 31, 1994. This level of outperformance was greater than the difference produced by any single variable.

There is, however, no single method that combines the performance of the price/sales ratio with the buyback theory to maximize the performance of a stock investment portfolio. In fact, many experts in the field discount the importance of buyback statistics, and those recognizing its potential have not thought to combine it with a company's price/sales statistics.

Therefore, there exists a need for an investment strategy that automatically determines those companies buying back the greatest percentage of their stock while maintaining the lowest price/sales ratio. The results of this method should help investors develop a strategy that combines the benefits of the price/sales ratio value factor with the stock buyback theory.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Systems and methods consistent with the present invention address these needs by combining data processing and information gathering techniques with a computer apparatus to determine those companies with the highest stock buyback percentage and lowest price/sales ratio.

Specifically, in accordance with the purpose of the invention as embodied and broadly described herein, a method executed by a computer with access to a database of stock information is provided for creating a buyback investment report. The method includes the steps of: receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information; selecting criteria for screening the selection of stock, wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and at least one of price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock; screening the selection of stocks the screening process including the substeps of identifying the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and ranking stocks within the subset based on the price/sales ratio or price/earnings for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.

The summary and the following detailed description should not restrict the scope of the claimed invention. Both provide examples and explanations to enable others to practice the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate systems and methods consistent with this invention and, together with the description, explain the principles of the invention.

In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computerized stock portfolio management system consistent with the present invention; and

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a method of automatically generating a buyback investment report consistent with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description of embodiment of this invention refers to the accompanying drawings. Where appropriate, the same reference numbers in different drawings refer to the same or similar elements.

Systems and methods consistent with the present invention provide investors with the means to select an investment group based on a set of selection criteria consisting of a buyback ratio and price/sales or price/earnings ratio to improve investment return.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a computerized system for generating a buyback stock report. Preferably, system 100 comprises a standard computer terminal capable of receiving user initiated input commands, processing data, and outputting the results for the user (for example, an IBM compatible personal computer would meet these requirements). System 100 consists of RAM 110, hard disk 120, telephone port 130, Central Processor Unit (CPU) 140,

mouse 150, keyboard 160, video display 170, and a printer 180. These components may be standard off-the-shelf hardware. For example, CPU 140 may be a Pentium processor, and video display 170 may be a NEC MultiSync 3V monitor. Telephone port 130 connects CPU 140 to a public switched telephone network (PSTN). 5

Preferably, hard disk 120 includes a database 125 of company stock profiles including detailed information fields. Stock information database 125 is preferably input to system 100 via standard data transfer methods, such as a magnetic media exchange or manual keyboard transcription. Once entered, the stock information database 125 is stored on hard disk 120. The Equity Portfolio Investment Computing (EPIC) database from Ford Investment Services, Inc. is an example of a stock information database suitable for use with systems consistent with the present invention. Stock database 125 may also be stored at a remote location and accessed via a secure network through a PSTN and telephone port 130 or a carrier wave from a server on the Internet. Moreover, database 125 could be stored on a computer readable media such as a floppy disk, a CD-ROM, a optical disk, etc., and accessed when the following method is executed.

FIG. 2 is a flow diagram showing a method 200 for generating a buyback stock report consistent with the present invention. Method 200 is implemented with system 100 to generate a stock investment portfolio and establish a buyback investment strategy. Preferably, stock database 125 has been previously stored in the hard disk 120, or is located on one of the alternative media, as noted above. 25 30

Initially, a user selects a group of stocks to search. This request is entered into system 100 by the user with keyboard 160 or some other standard input apparatus, such as a microphone or mouse 150. Any selection of stocks can be searched with the present embodiment, but preferably the selection consists of stocks in the Standard and Poor's 500 or the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Upon receiving the request (Step 210), system 100 screens the selection in accordance with selection criteria received by the user (Step 220). The screening step is preformed by the various components of the computer, in conjunction with software stored on a computer readable medium or embedded in RAM 110. The computer component uses conventional searching and processing techniques, such as text based searching, data field searching, or the like.

In the preferred embodiment, the selection criteria consists of a company's buyback ratio and either the price/sales ratio or the price/earnings ratio. The buyback ratio is the percentage of stocks repurchased by the issuing company over a given period that results in a net percentage decrease of the outstanding shares. Further, companies within the selection of stocks preferably have a market capitalization value to identify the value of the company, and the selection criteria consists of price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio depending on whether the company value is in the higher or lower half, respectively, of a market capitalization value table preferably stored within database 125.

The selection criteria of the present invention has been empirically proven to outperform other selection criteria over the same time period. For example, testing has shown that the buyback ratio in conjunction with price/sales or price/earnings ratio criteria resulted in a portfolio with an annual return rate of 24.4 percentage points from Nov. 30, 1982 to Nov. 30, 1996. Further, larger portfolios developed using these particular selection criteria consistently outperformed the Standard and Poor 500 by 9.23% annually (i.e.,

26.29% versus 17.06%, respectively). These statistics demonstrate that the selection criteria provide results superior to other previously disclosed combination of stock screening criteria.

System 100 uses the selection criteria to screen the selection of stocks by first, identifying a buyback subset within the selection of stocks (Step 232). For the purposes of the preferred embodiment, the buyback subset comprises those companies repurchasing their outstanding stock during a given period, thereby decreasing the percentage of outstanding shares. The period, which the user includes in his initial request, can be for any time period (i.e., 6 month, 12 months, 5 years, etc.) depending upon the investor's particular investment criteria. Ideally, the user performs, method 200 several times, and thereby determines the optimal time period for which to gather data.

In the preferred embodiment, the user defines the level of buyback that constitutes a valuable selection criteria. This level is based upon buyback criteria stored within database 125, such as the percentage of outstanding stocks repurchased that cause a decrease in the number of shares outstanding, the average price of stocks repurchased, the overall volume of stocks repurchased during the selected period, the price yield—dividends paid per dollar invested, or price book value, etc. Other factors for selecting the buyback subset are equally within the scope of the present invention.

While these parameters (i.e., buyback level, time period, etc.) are preferably included with the initial request, they may be entered at various points throughout the performance of method 200. In this alternate embodiment, the user would be prompted via monitor 170 to enter a particular selection parameter that system 100 needed to perform its next processing step.

After determining the buyback subset, system 100 identifies those companies in the buyback subset with the lowest price/sales ratio or lowest price/earnings ratio (Step 234). Preferably, the user also informs system 100 what level of price/sales ratio or price earnings ratio is too high to be of interest to the investor. Again, in the preferred embodiment, the initial selection request may include this level, or the user could be prompted via monitor 170 to input his or her particular selection parameter.

Next, the screened stocks are ranked to provide a listing satisfying the criteria input by the user (Step 240). Preferably, ranking is done to give the user a workable listing of stocks in an order best suited for evaluation and investment. In the preferred embodiment, the screened stocks are ranked from lowest to highest price/sales ratio or lowest to highest price/earnings ratio. Finally, the ranking of stocks are generated and output by system 100 in the form of an investment report (Step 250). While this report is outputted directly to printer 180, the report may be, alternatively, stored on a standard computer storage medium such as a CD-Rom, a floppy disk, or data tape, for later use or manipulation by the user. Once stored, the stock report, or portfolio, can be rebalanced over a business investment period to determine the particular period (i.e., monthly, annually, quarterly, etc.) that would provide the best results for the investor. Rebalancing is a known method of reevaluating the stocks in the portfolio to determine whether the companies contained therein meet the particular investment criteria originally defined.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in this art that various modifications and variations can be made to the method and system consistent with the present invention

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described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in this art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. For example, while the preferred embodiment is described in terms of a local processing machine, one skilled in the art will recognize that the processing could be performed remotely by one or many computing systems. This remote processing would occur, for example, if a service provided users with phone-line access to a stock database, and chose to perform the processing procedures, for a fee, where the database resided. In this case, the output could be forwarded to the user via standard electronic means (i.e., e-mail) or other communication methods (i.e., fax, mail, etc.).

It is intended that the specification and examples be considered exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

I claim:

- ✓1. A computer implemented method for creating a buy-back investment report comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
 - selecting criteria for screening the selection of stock, wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and at least one of price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock;
 - screening the selection of stocks, the screening process including the substeps of
 - identifying the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and
 - identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and
 - ranking stocks within the subset based on the price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying the market cap value of each company, and wherein the substep of identifying the price/sales ratio or the price/earnings ratio includes the substeps of
 - selecting the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and
 - selecting the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the request specifies the Standard and Poor index, and wherein the screening step includes the substeps of
 - searching the Standard and Poor index within the database; and
 - identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Standard and Poor index.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request specifies the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and wherein the screening step includes the substeps of
 - searching the Dow Jones Industrial Average within the database; and
 - identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the selection criteria includes a buyback level and the substep of identifying the companies having buyback ratios further includes the sub-step of
- 5 identifying the companies in accordance with the buyback selection level.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of stocks repurchased.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of stocks repurchased.
- 10 8. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of generating an investment report comprising the ranking of stocks; and outputting the investment report.
- 15 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the outputting step of includes the substep of storing the investment report on a storage medium.
- ✓10. A computerized investment management system for creating an investment report, comprising:
- 20 means for receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
- means for selecting criteria for screening the selection of stock, wherein the selected criteria consists of a buy-back ratio and at least one of price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock.
- 25 means for screening the selection of stocks including means for identifying the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and
- 30 means for identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and
- 35 means for ranking stocks within the subset based on the price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.
- 40 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying the market cap value of each company, and wherein the means for identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio includes
- 45 means for selecting the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and
- means for selecting the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.
- 50 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the request specifies the Standard and Poor index, and wherein the means for screening includes
- 55 means for searching the Standard and Poor index within the database; and
- means for identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Standard and Poor index.
- 60 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the request specifies the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and wherein the means for screening includes
- means for searching the Dow Jones Industrial Average within the database; and
- means for identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
- 65 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the selection criteria includes a buyback level and the means for identifying the companies having buyback ratios further includes

means for identifying the companies in accordance with the buyback selection level.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of stocks repurchased.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of stocks repurchased. 5

17. The system of claim 10, further including

means for generating an investment report comprising the ranking of stocks; and

means for outputting the investment report. 10

18. The system of claim 17, wherein outputting means includes

means for storing the investment report on a storage medium. 15

19. A computer readable medium containing instructions on controlling a data processing station for generating a buyback investment report comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information; 20

a selecting module configured to select criteria for screening the selection of stock, wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and at least one of price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock. 25

a screening module configured to screen the selection of stocks including

a first identifying module configured to identify the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and

a second identifying module configured to identify a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and

a ranking module configured to rank stocks within the subset based on the price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying the market cap value of each company, and wherein the second identifying module includes

a first selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and

a second selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

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21. A computer implemented method for reporting on investments, or potential investments, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
- identifying stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and
- generating a report ranking a set of the identified stocks with buyback ratios based on a metric associated with performance of the corresponding company.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the metric is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of each company, and wherein the step of generating a report includes the substeps of
- selecting the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and
- selecting the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.
24. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
- accessing a Standard and Poor index; and wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of
- identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

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25. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
accessing a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial
Average, and
wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of
identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones
Industrial Average.
26. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of identifying stocks based on
information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database includes the substep of:
identifying the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of
the stocks repurchased.
28. The method of claim 26, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical
volume of the stocks repurchased.
29. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:
outputting the report.
30. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:
storing the report on a storage medium.

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31. An apparatus for reporting on investments, or potential investments, comprising:
a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and
a generating module configured to generate a report ranking a set of the identified stocks with buyback ratios based on a metric associated with performance of the corresponding company.
 32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the metric is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.
 33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of each company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:
a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and
a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

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34. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index; and wherein
the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios
based on information from the Standard and Poor index.
 35. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
an accessing module configured to access a database with information
corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and
wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios
based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
 36. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the identifying module configured to identify
stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database includes:
an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with a
buyback selection level.
 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of
the stocks repurchased.
 38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical
volume of the stocks repurchased.
 39. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
an outputting module configured to output the report.
 40. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

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41. A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for reporting on investments, or potential investments, the computer usable medium comprising:
a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and
a generating module configured to generate a report ranking a set of the identified stocks with buyback ratios based on a metric associated with performance of the corresponding company.
42. The computer usable medium of claim 41, wherein the metric is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.
43. The computer usable medium of claim 42, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of each company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:
a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and
a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

44. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index; and wherein
the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios
based on information from the Standard and Poor index.
45. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
an accessing module configured to access a database with information
corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and
wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios
based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
46. The computer usable medium of claim 41, wherein the identifying module
configured to identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average
database includes:
an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with a
buyback selection level.
47. The computer usable medium of claim 46, wherein the buyback selection level is
a price value of the stocks repurchased.
48. The computer usable medium of claim 46, wherein the buyback selection level is
a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.
49. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
an outputting module configured to output the report.

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202-408-4000

50. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

000000000000000000000000

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ABSTRACT

A computer implemented method for creating an investment report. A database of stock information is screened based upon buyback ratio and prices/sales ratio selection criteria. The buyback ratio represents the percentage of stocks repurchased by a company during a given period that resulted in a net decrease in outstanding shares. The method and system use the criteria to identify companies with a highest buyback ratio and with the lowest price/sale ratio. The resulting list of stocks are ranked and output in an investment report that provides superior return over conventional investment techniques.

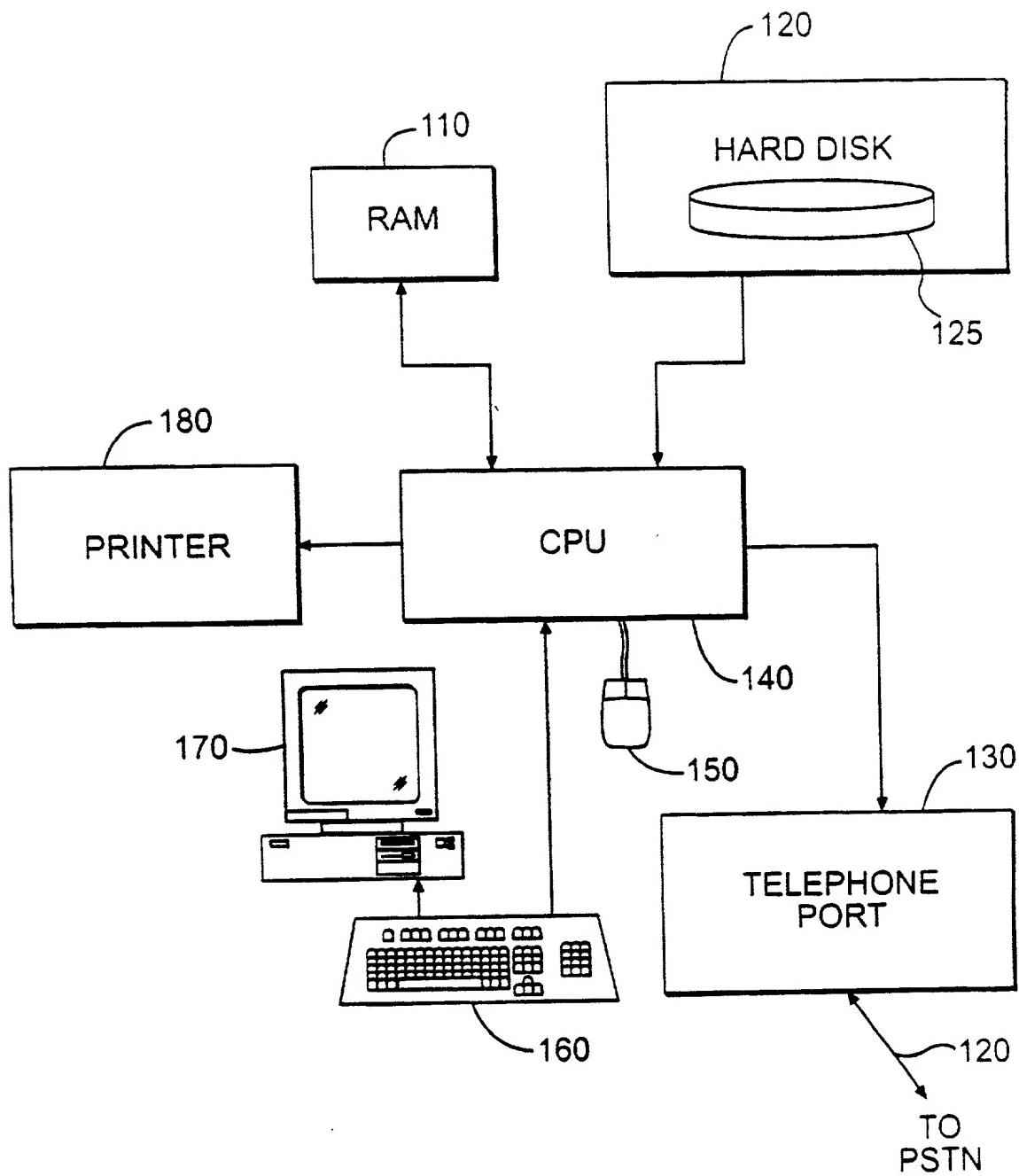
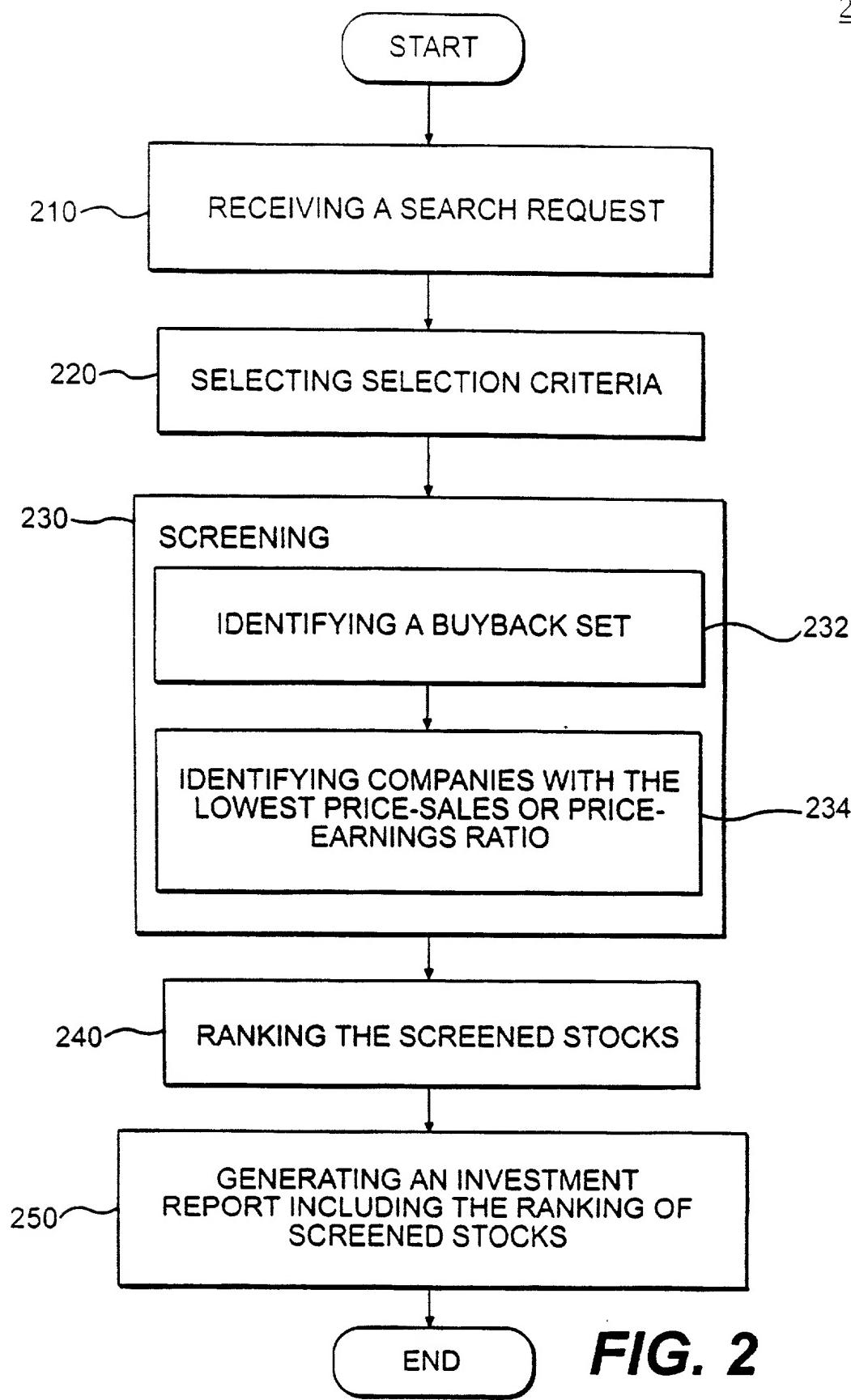


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2**

PATENT
Atty. Docket No.: 07027.0001-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Reissue of)
U.S. Patent No. 6,035,286)
)
Inventor: David R. FRIED)
)
Issued: March 7, 2000)
)
Serial No. 09/030,854) Group Art Unit: 2764
)
Filed: February 26, 1998) Examiner: Y. Retta
)
For: A COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM AND)
METHOD FOR CREATING A BUYBACK)
STOCK INVESTMENT REPORT)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

REISSUE DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.175
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, David R. Fried, hereby state and declare as follows:

1. I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification and claims of the above-identified reissue application, and believe myself to be the first, original and sole inventor of the invention described and claimed in the aforesaid reissue application and in U.S. Letters Patent No. 6,035,286 on which said reissue application is based.

2. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this reissue application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, Section 1.56.

**Serial No. 09/030,854
Atty. Docket No. 07027.0001-00**

3. This declaration supplements the declaration executed by me on March 24, 1998, erroneously dated March 24, 1997.

4. U.S. Patent No. 6,035,286 (the "286 patent") is partly inoperative because it claims less than I had a right to claim in the patent (37 C.F.R. 1.175(a)(3)).

5. The insufficiencies identified in paragraph 4 above arose as a result of an error on the part of the Applicant. Subsequent to the issuance of the '286 patent, I learned an infringer could argue that the claims would not literally read on all possible ways of practicing my invention. I believe I have a right to claim the invention more broadly to address this error and cover such ways of practicing my invention. This error may be remedied by the addition of claims 21-50 in the above-identified reissue application which more fully define the patentable aspects of my invention as supported by the disclosure.

6. All errors which are being corrected in the present reissue application up to the time of filing of this declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the Applicant.

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7. I hereby appoint the following attorney and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. **FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.**, Douglas B. Henderson, Reg. No. 20,291; Ford F. Farabow, Jr., Reg. No. 20,630; Arthur S. Garrett, Reg. No. 20,338; Donald R. Dunner, Reg. No. 19,073; Brian G. Brunsvold, Reg. No. 22,593; Tipton D. Jennings, IV, Reg. No. 20,645; Jerry D. Voight, Reg. No. 23,020; Laurence R. Hefter, Reg. No. 20,827; Kenneth E. Payne, Reg. No. 23,098; Herbert H. Mintz, Reg. No. 26,691; C. Larry O'Rourke, Reg. No. 26,014; Albert J. Santorelli, Reg. No. 22,610; Michael C. Elmer, Reg. No. 25,857; Richard H. Smith, Reg. No. 20,609; Stephen L. Peterson, Reg. No. 26,325; John M. Romary, Reg. No. 26,331; Bruce C. Zotter, Reg. No. 27,680; Dennis P. O'Reilley, Reg. No. 27,932; Allen M. Sokal, Reg. No. 26,695; Robert D. Bajefsky, Reg. No. 25,387; Richard L. Stroup, Reg. No. 28,478; David W. Hill, Reg. No. 28,220; Thomas L. Irving, Reg. No. 28,619; Charles E. Lipsey, Reg. No. 28,165; Thomas W. Winland, Reg. No. 27,605; Basil J. Lewris, Reg. No. 28,818; Martin I. Fuchs, Reg. No. 28,508; E. Robert Yoches, Reg. No. 30,120; Barry W. Graham, Reg. No. 29,924; Susan Haberman Griffen, Reg. No. 30,907; Richard B. Racine, Reg. No. 30,415; Thomas H. Jenkins, Reg. No. 30,857; Robert E. Converse, Jr., Reg. No. 27,432; Clair X. Mullen, Jr., Reg. No. 20,348; Christopher P. Foley, Reg. No. 31,354; John C. Paul, Reg. No. 30,413; Roger D.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and

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Atty. Docket No. 07027.0001-00

the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor: **David R. Fried**

Signature of Inventor: 

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